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INTRODUCTION

Defendants' Amended Motion to Dismiss Cases for Failure to Comply with PTO 10 (the "Motion") [Doc. No. 4203] seeks dismissal of 87 Plaintiffs (the "WHB Plaintiffs") represented by Williams Hart & Boundas, LLP ("WHB"). Defendants bring this Motion despite the express command of Local Rule 37-1(a) to meet and confer before bringing a discovery motion. For this reason alone, the Court should deny the Motion as to the WHB Plaintiffs.

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These 80¹ Plaintiffs have diligently amended their fact sheets multiple times. Uber now moves to dismiss their cases not because they are missing data or information in their fact sheets, but because they have not submitted a signed verification for their *most recent* amended fact sheet. Motion at 1.

As of the filing of this response, 47 of the remaining 80 Plaintiffs have submitted a signed verification.

As past practice has shown, the parties would likely have resolved this deficiency had there been a mandated meet and confer process.

BACKGROUND

This is not the first time Defendants have sought dismissal of cases in this MDL for failure to abide by the Court's Pre-Trial Orders. In January, Defendants filed a similar motion (the "January Motion") seeking dismissal for alleged deficiencies in plaintiffs represented by WHB's responses in their PFS. As in this Motion, Defendants argued in the January Motion that failure to produce a signed verification or failure to answer a particular PFS question justified dismissal.² And, as with this Motion, Defendants neglected to mention in the January Motion that a number of plaintiffs had cured the identified deficiencies.

Before bringing the January Motion, Defendants and plaintiffs represented by WHB engaged in a month-long meet and confer process. In December 2024, Defendants notified Counsel that there were allegedly various issues with some 455 Plaintiff PFS, be it unsigned verifications (136), failure to provide contact information (224), or allegedly insufficient responses (95). That process was fruitful and ended with many disputes resolving without the need for motion practice. By January 10, Plaintiffs had submitted more than half of the outstanding verifications (some of which were verifying their second and third amended PFS) and

One of the plaintiffs Uber lists as having a deficient fact sheet is WHB 1876. The Court has already dismissed this plaintiff's case in full. See document 3441. Six of the remaining 86 cases are in the process of being dismissed: WHB 304; WHB 2055; WHB 1860; WHB 1317; WHB 678; WHB 3.

² Joint Letter Regarding Williams Hart Plaintiffs' Compliance With November 18, 2024 PFS Order (ECF No. 2132).

only four plaintiffs still needed to provide witness contact information or supplement a PFS answer. As a result, Defendants only saw the need to move on 63 plaintiffs, down from 455.³

Here, Defendants have not even attempted to meet and confer.

ARGUMENT

WHB Plaintiffs fully appreciate the importance of PTO 10. They are diligently working to produce fully compliant PFS and all required documents. To be clear, none of the 80 WHB Plaintiffs failed to produce a PFS or served a blank PFS. As of the filing of this response, more than half of missing verifications have been uploaded the MDL Centrality. *See* Ex. A - UU to the Declaration of Walt Cubberly. Those 47 Plaintiffs are each identified below.

The Court Has Issued Orders That Set Forth the Proper Remedy for Plaintiffs Who Have Failed to Provide a Verified Plaintiff Fact Sheet

Uber seeks a drastic remedy. *See* Defendants' Proposed Order. This Court has ruled on several motions to dismiss related to other firms' cases. The most recent related to WHB cases was signed on September 16, 2025. Doc. 3922; Ex. VV to the Declaration of Walt Cubberly. Pursuant to that order, the Court overruled Uber's request for dismissal with prejudice and instead provided each Plaintiff subject to Uber's motion 14 days to provide a complete and verified Plaintiff Fact Sheet. *Id.* Further, the Court ordered Uber to submit a declaration within 21 days of the order that identifies which, if any, Plaintiffs have not complied with the Court's order as of that date. *Id.* If any Plaintiff disagreed with her inclusion on Uber's declaration, that Plaintiff was to submit her own declaration within 28 days of the Court's order. The Plaintiff's declaration was to identify the date upon which she submitted a complete and verified Plaintiff Fact Sheet. *Id.* The final step in the process was dismissal without prejudice of the claims of any Plaintiff who did not comply with paragraph 1 of the order (provide a complete and verified Plaintiff Fact Sheet within 14 days of the order). *Id.*

³ The Honorable Magistrate Judge Lisa Cisneros took note of WHB's progress in addressing its clients' obligations and ordered the Plaintiffs at issue to serve compliant PFS no later than February 21. (ECF No. 2186.) Judge Cisneros noted that any request for dispositive sanctions for noncompliance with her order were to be directed to Judge Breyer in the form of a motion under Civil Local Rule 7-2.

The remaining 33 WHB Plaintiffs subject to Uber's Motion (as shown above, the remainder have now served verifications) respectfully request the same procedural remedy that was afforded to the WHB plaintiffs before them in September.

The Court Should Deny Defendants' Motion for Failure to Comply with Local Rule 37-1.

The Parties did not meet and confer before Defendants brought this Motion. This is not a matter of niceties. The Local Rules expressly require that the parties meet and confer before a party brings a discovery motion. Loc. R. 37-1(a). Specifically, the rule states, "The Court will not entertain a request or a motion to resolve a disclosure or discovery dispute unless, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 37, counsel have previously conferred for the purpose of attempting to resolve all disputed issues." *Id.* Courts take these meet-and-confer requirements "very seriously." *V5 Tech. v. Switch, Ltd.*, 334 F.R.D. 297, 302 (D. Nev. 2019). This is because "[d]iscovery is supposed to proceed with minimal involvement of the Court." *Id.* (citing *F.D.I.C. v. Butcher*, 116 F.R.D. 196, 203 (E.D. Tenn. 1986)).

While courts retain discretion to waive the meet-and-confer requirement based on the circumstances of the case, *V5 Tech.*, 334 F.R.D. at 302, nothing counsels that the Court exercise that discretion here. As discussed, WHB has had significant success in resolving and narrowing disputes in the meet-and-confer process. Nor can Uber point to any "gamesmanship" by WHB or the WHB Plaintiffs to avoid a meaningful meet and confer. *See id.*

Because Defendants' Motion was brought without any attempt to meet and confer, and because WHB and WHB Plaintiffs have not engaged in gamesmanship to avoid meeting and conferring, the Court should refuse to entertain the Motion. Loc. R. 37-1.

a. The Motion Should be Denied as to WHB Plaintiffs Who Have Cured Deficiencies Alleged by Defendants

Plaintiffs WHB 1882, WHB 322, WHB 188, WHB 1914, WHB 1030, WHB 1462, WHB 1858, WHB 1670, WHB 757, WHB 1546, WHB 603, WHB 1896, WHB 974, WHB 696, WHB 1834, WHB 1269, WHB 999, WHB 755, WHB 599, WHB 1606, WHB 1953, WHB 1865, WHB 1967, WHB 862, WHB 1386, WHB 504, WHB 1555, WHB 70, WHB 1909, WHB 1338, WHB

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27 28 1888, WHB 335, WHB 1593, WHB 1613, WHB 1053, WHB 1843, WHB 505, WHB 413, WHB 1481, WHB 695, WHB 885, WHB 520, WHB 2083, WHB 1476, WHB 400, WHB 1847, and WHB 662 have cured the deficiency identified by Defendants. They are in compliance with PTO 10. Accordingly, there is no basis to dismiss these WHB Plaintiffs.

b. WHB and the WHB Plaintiffs are Diligently Working to Comply with PTO 10

As the Court is aware, Plaintiffs may become unavailable for a variety of reasons and WHB has used extensive efforts to reach each of the remaining 33 clients, even predating Defendants' Motion. WHB devotes extensive time and resources to successfully curing Defendants' voluminous alleged deficiencies. WHB intends to continue this process as it works alongside its clients by carefully reviewing every alleged deficiency Defendants serve, often two or three per Plaintiff. In the event that the Court does not deny Defendants' motion for failure to abide by the Court's meet and confer rule, the remaining 33 WHB Plaintiffs respectfully request that they be afforded additional time to submit a signed verification under the same process outlined in the Court's September 16 order. Doc. 3922, Exhibit UU to the Declaration of Walt Cubberly.

Further, in accordance with the Court's prior orders referenced above, there is certainly no basis to dismiss any Plaintiff's claim with prejudice to the extent that they ultimately, after being given the opportunity to cure discussed above, fail to submit a verification to an amended PFS (having verified prior PFS's that were served on Defendants).

CONCLUSION

Because Defendants have failed to comply with the Local Rules necessitating a meet and confer before bringing a discovery motion, Defendants' Motion should be denied. Since Defendants began serving Deficiency Letters, WHB has diligently and in good faith worked with Defendants to resolve these issues without the Court's involvement. Defendants should not be rewarded for short-circuiting that process. Even without a meet and confer process, as shown

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